



[11443/160]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Michael WHITMAN et al.
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For : SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING DEVICE
Group Art Unit : 3721
Examiner : Gloria Weeks

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date: Oct. 27, 2005 Reg. No. 42,674
Signature: [Signature]
Thomas C. Hughes

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. §121

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 18 of this paper.